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CYCLOLOMA PLATYPHYLLUM, Moquin.—While collecting fish with Prof. D. J. Jordan in Fall Creek, a tributary of White River, in October, we found *Cycloloma platyphyllum*, Moq. well established in the low sandy banks. This seems to be its most easterly station yet reported. In the same month we found in our door yard *Nasturtium sessiliflorum*, Nutt. It continued in blossom until the frosts had killed many plants usually ranked hardier. *Dactyloctenium Aegyptiacum*, Willd. is well settled in many of our streets, a somewhat northerly station I believe.—PROF. HERBERT E. COPELAND, *Indianapolis, Ind.*

DIARRHENA AMERICANA, Beauv.—Last summer while collecting *Sullivantia Ohionis*, T. & G. in Clifty Ravine, a gorge running back from the Ohio River, I noticed large bunches of a beautiful grass growing along the side of a narrow foot-path running at the foot of some high cliffs. The leaves were large and brilliant green and grew in dense tufts at the base of a long weak culm, bearing at the top a few spikelets. The species proved to be *D. Americana*, Beauv., a new grass for this neighborhood. There are one or two characteristic features about it, in addition to those mentioned in Gray's Manual, that may be of interest to botanists. The margins of the leaves and the axis of inflorescence are *rough backwards*, almost as much so as the stems of some species of *Galium*. The prominent nerves on the upper surface of the leaves and the glumes are also rough backwards, but rather less so. The under surface of the leaf is smooth and lighter in color than the upper. This species was growing in shady, damp, limestone soil and the tufts were as close together as they could stand, with some culms at least four feet long. At the top of the cliff, and running back upon the flat lands, *Kyllingia pumila*, Michx. grows in the greatest profusion, sometimes forming a dense carpet over the ground for rods.—ED.

EUPHORBIA MARGINATA, Pursh.—This western Euphorbia has become thoroughly naturalized in this neighborhood. Acres of it grow upon the gravelly hills about Madison, making them look as if covered with white blossoms. The plants are strong and thrifty, some attaining a height of more than three feet and profusely branching. It seemed to make its appearance quite suddenly a few years ago, but is spreading with wonderful rapidity, covering only such hills and parts of hills as have been cleared of timber and are covered with sand and gravel. Its special fondness seems to be for some old railroad cuts where piles of debris have been thrown out, and, weathering, have made a soil of suitable composition. It thus shows its fondness for the great sandy plains it has left so far to the west of us.—ED.

NOTES ON SOME INTERESTING PLANTS FOUND IN JEFFERSON COUNTY.—In our summer excursions we have found quite a number of plants either of local occurrence, unreported range, or rare, the reporting of which we have thought would prove of interest to Botanists. *Hydrastis Canadensis*, L., has been observed in quite a number of places, but its abundance upon the hills of the Ohio River seems to designate them as a place most favorable for its growth. In all our observations we have rarely found an isolated individual of this species, but it usually appears in small patches of 50 to 100 individuals.

Polanisia graveolens, Raf. abounds along the roadsides near the river. It nearly always bears two, and often three sorts of leaves upon the same stem. The usual specimens bear simple oblong to ovate leaves in the upper portion of the plant, sometimes succeeded by binate leaves, while the lower are nearly always ternate. We notice *Viola lanceolata*, L. credited in the Manual of Botany to a greater abundance eastward than westward, but the quantity here is remarkable, it being not uncommon to see a plot of one or two acres white with its blossoms. Some specimens of this species seemed to me so remarkably large that I measured a few. I found six to seven inches to be quite a common length, while I have one before me whose scape is nine inches long. Three years ago the writer collected at the "Knobs," about thirty miles distant, some specimens of *Lechea minor*, Lam.

Hibiscus Moscheutos, L. was observed here last August, beautifully in flower. We were a little surprised at finding it where we did, as there were none of those accompanying saline influences to be noticed with which this plant is usually associated. Within half a mile of it, however, is a spring showing but slightly the presence of Sulphur in its water, but a hollow log sunk for a cistern gives ample evidence that the percentage of this element is by no means small. We also tried hard to imagine that in a small degree we experienced the peculiar nauseating effect of the well known Magnesia Sulphate. Whatever the effect of these spring waters, the occurrence of this plant here is interesting. The locality is far removed from the traveled highways and also from the means of transporting seeds common to a thickly populated district. *Xanthium spinosum*, L. is gradually assuming a local importance with us, but how long it has thus been insidiously establishing a firm foothold we do not know, but we do know that it was not scarce ten years ago. So far it has spread only along our public roads and this would seem to point to an arrival by transportation and at no distant time. *Bidens cernua*, L. seems rather a late arrival, as we marked its appearance for the first time along the river banks about the beginning of September. Perhaps the extraordinary floods of the early summer swept down the seeds from the tributaries of the upper Ohio. *Artemisia biennis*, Willd. was also collected along our roadsides, thus leading us to remark its progress southward as well as eastward. *Onopordon acanthium*, L. is another rare and local plant. We have also met a small shrub supposed to be *Ilex mollis*, Gray. *Plantago lanceolata*, L. is becoming a frequent intruder in our meadows and pastures and is associated with *P. major* about our dwellings.

Seymeria macrophylla, Nutt. occurs in abundance upon the river bluffs from July to October. *Gerardia purpurea*, L. appears this season along our roadsides, apparently for the first time, as its localities have been beaten over time and again during the past six or seven years by the Editor, and also the writer, without previous discovery. Its appearance so far inland may be worthy of note, as recorded stations place it nearer the coast or the neighborhood of the great lakes. *G. tenuifolia*, Vahl. is becoming very abundant in some of our old fields. *G. flava*, L. appears as a rarity. *Pedicularis lanceolata*, L. was collected during August, in considerable abundance in a single swampy locality. The contribution upon plant odors by the Editor in the initial number of the BULLETIN, calls to mind a striking and delightful corroboration of its value in the *Melissa officinalis*, L., which is very local, and whose sweet perfume, something between the Rose Geranium and Lemon Verbena, has afforded the writer many a pleasant inhalation. Even though digressing we are tempted to call attention to the exquisite odor of the little *Gratiola Virginiana*, the delicate nectary sweetness of the rare *Orchis spectabilis*, and the pleasing perfume of *Ptelea trifoliata*, although in the latter we differ from the authorities.

Synandra grandiflora, Nutt., whose name implies its living beauty, is a very rare inhabitant of our county. *Mertensia Virginica*, DC. with its large drooping clusters of white, pink and purple flowers adorns many a southern slope of the river bluffs. Among the *Hydrophyllaceæ* are *Hydrophyllum macrophyllum*, Nutt., *H. appendiculatum*, Mx., *H. Canadense*, L., and *Phacelia bipinnatifida*, Mx. *Phlox divaricata*, L. is frequently met with from March to May in the rich woods and thickets that have a southerly exposure although this plant is given a mountainous or more northern distribution. A single specimen of *Obolaria Virginica*, L. has been detected. Specimens of *Asclepias quadrifolia*, Jacq. are frequently met with from April to June, but not in any abundance. *Enslenia albida*, Nutt. is fast becoming established in the vicinity of the Ohio River.

Euphorbia marginata, Pursh. is very plentiful on some of the river hillsides near Madison, Ind. It is associated with *Xanthium spinosum*, and may have had a similar introduction. Its spread has been more rapid than that of the *Xanthium* during the past decade and now it ranges over many acres of the hilly ground, while it slowly but surely is creeping upwards to the level ground, where in a few years

we may hear of it as a troublesome weed. Its milky juice is very abundant and may some day yield, in its gum, to investigating industry, an ample return for its cultivation. Those who have occasion, however, to handle it, had better not do so with abraded skin, and should be careful not to convey any to the mouth, as the principle, Euphorbin, is exceedingly irritating in minute quantities and may be fatal in large portions. Of *Celtis Mississippensis*, Bosc. we have met a single bush about eight feet high. Of the *Orchidaceæ* we list *Orchis spectabilis*, L., *Habenaria psycodes*, Gr., *H. peramœna*, Gr., *Spiranthes cernua*, Richard., *S. gracilis*, Big., *Coralorhiza odontorhiza*, Nutt., *Aplectrum hyemale*, Nutt., and *Pogonia pendula*, Lindl. The last of these is here found among the leaf debris of thick beech woods and so nearly covered that unless one discovers it by mere accident, he may look for a whole season in vain. The "Knobs" also yielded us *Agave Virginica*, L., which occurs there in some abundance. Among *Liliaceæ*, *Erythronium albidum*, Nutt. and *Allium tricoccum*, Ait. are perhaps the most interesting in their distribution.

Such are a few of the more interesting species of between 800 and 900 flowering plants the Editor and myself have collected in Jefferson County during the past half dozen years. To these we have added about 150 *Cyperaceæ* and *Gramineæ* and probably 75 to 100 species of *Musci*. Any notes upon these will be reserved for another paper.—A. H. YOUNG, *Hanover, Ind.*

DENTARIA LACINIATA, Muhl.—This crucifer grows here in great abundance and luxuriance. It is one of our earliest spring flowers and one of the most variable and perplexing species I have ever met. A long list might be made of the various forms in which it occurs. *D. maxima*, Nutt., *D. heterophylla*, Nutt., *D. laciniata*, Muhl., and *D. multifida*, Muhl. undoubtedly run together in this locality. Specimens of these different species have been found growing in the same patches and even from the same root! The leaves vary from almost entire to finely dissected. In some specimens there are three leaves in a whorl: in some these leaves are alternate; in some there are four alternate leaves; often there are but two leaves, opposite or alternate. In short, there is no kind of division or position of leaves which is not represented in this species. I would like to know if any botanist has had a similar experience, or whether all these variations are due to the unusually favorable conditions of soil and climate. If such perplexing intermediate forms are met with wherever the plant occurs, these several species should certainly be reduced to one, and some such name as *D. heterophylla* given to it.—ED.

A QUERY.—In looking over the Botany of a friend I find among other notes written upon the fly-leaves the following:

Comptonia asplenifolia, Ait. Thousands of acres in Michigan, hitherto deemed utterly worthless because densely covered with a growth of "Sweet Fern," prove to be very valuable, as this plant is a much more powerful astringent than hemlock and far superior to it for tanning purposes, yielding forty per cent. of tannin where hemlock yields but fourteen.

Has anything been done to prove the truth or falsity of this observation? It seems to be floating around in the newspapers without any special authority.—ED.

Contributions of notes are desired from all botanists, and such notes as are accepted will appear in the number of the *Bulletin* issued immediately after their receipt, as it is not intended to limit the size of the paper to four pages if the amount of matter will justify an enlargement.